

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 /072 W
-----114127 211137Z /20

R 210910Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8829
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL UDORN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1668

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1, 4
TAGS: MOPS EAIR PINS LA
SUBJECT: REPORTS OF ATTACK ON VIENTIANE AIRPORT, DECEMBER 16

REF: A VIENTIANE 1159, B VIENTIANE 1364

1. LAO AUTHORITIES TOLD SHELL OFFICIALS IN LAOS DECEMBER 21 THAT RESISTANCE ELEMENTS DECEMBER 16 FIRED TWO ROUNDS OF EXPLOSIVES ON VIENTIANE'S WATTAY AIRPORT. THE LAO OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE APPARENT TARGETS WERE MIGS PARKED IN THE MILITARY PORTION OF WATTAY. THE LAO OFFICIALS SAID THAT NEITHER OF THE ROUNDS EXPLODED, THOUGH THE IMPACT MADE HOLES IN THE CEMENT APRON.

2. THREE LAO SOURCES HAVE THUS FAR PROVIDED VARYING ACCOUNTS OF THE INCIDENT. THE MOST DETAILED ACCOUNT REPORTED THAT THE ATTACK WAS APPARENTLY AIMED AT A SHELL FUEL DEPOT APPROXIMATELY ONE KILOMETER SOUTHWEST
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OF THE MILITARY PORTION OF THE AIRPORT. THIS REPORT SAID THAT TWO ROUNDS FELL NEAR THE FUEL DEPOT AND FAILED TO EXPLODE, BUT THAT ANOTHER ROUND FELL APPROXIMATELY ONE KILOMETER NORTHEAST OF THE DEPOT AND DID EXPLODE. THE SOURCE FOR THIS REPORT SAID HE HEARD ONE EXPLOSION AT 2300 HOURS DECEMBER 16, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY AUTOMATIC SMALL ARMS FIRE. THIS SOURCE

REPORTED SMALL ARMS FIRE IN THE VICINITY OF THE AIRPORT
THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 17 ALSO.

3. COMMENT: ATTACKS ON THE SHELL DEPOT IN SAVANNAKHET
EARLIER IN THE YEAR (REFTELS) SUGGEST THAT THE SHELL
DEPOT AT WATTAY MIGHT IN FACT HAVE BEEN THE TARGET OF
THE ATTACK. LAO OFFICIALS MAY HAVE SAID THAT MIGS AT
THE AIRPORT WERE THE TARGET SO AS NOT TO ALARM SHELL.
ON THE OTHER HAND, THE MIGS WOULD ALSO MAKE AN APPEAL-
ING TARGET.

4. THIS IS THE FIRST RESISTANCE ACTIVITY REPORTED IN
THE VIENTIANE AREA IN MANY MONTHS AND MAY CAUSE ADDI-
TIONAL SECURITY MEASURES IN CITY AFFECTING THE
LOCAL POPULATION AND FOREIGNERS.
ROBERTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977VIENTI01668
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Executive Order: X1
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Format: TEL
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771229/aaaaayir.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 151931
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTS OF ATTACK ON VIENTIANE AIRPORT, DECEMBER 16
TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PINS, LA
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Type: TE
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